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or extension of their power in the Balkans, and the invasion of Belgium which definitely brought England into the war.

For the actual outbreak of war he blames Germany most (for risking the peace of Europe in a campaign after prestige), Austria next (for precipitating the conflict), and Russia least (for her general mobilization under great provocation at a time when there was still a possibility of mediation or negotiation). Belgium is given a clean bill of health. Especial attention should be called to the masterly defence of Earl Grey's diplomacy in the long note on pp. 354-359.

In addition to an excellent index, list of questions and answers, chronology, and list of citations, this admirable volume also contains 134 pages of valuable documents beginning with Washington's Farewell Address and ending with a letter by Dr. Dernburg in answer to Dr. Eliot.

On the whole, the book takes rank with Headlam's *History of Twelve Days* as one of the two (or possibly three) best books hitherto produced on the diplomacy of the war.

AMOS S. HERSHEY.

American Diplomacy. By CARL RUSSELL FISH, Ph.D., Professor of American History, University of Wisconsin. (New York: Henry Holt and Company. 1915. Pp. 541.)

The writer of diplomatic history is confronted at the outset with the question of method of treatment of his subject—whether it shall be wholly chronological or whether it shall be topical. The one method affords the more comprehensive survey of historical facts, the other gives a clearer comprehension of the motives and results of diplomatic action. As might be expected from one writing a book for classes in history Professor Fish has chosen to employ the strictly chronological method of treating American diplomacy. The advantage of this treatment is offset by the disconnected and necessarily meager account accorded to many of the most important diplomatic questions.

The chronological method imposes a great burden upon the reader in requiring him to carry a number of incomplete topics through half a dozen chapters with merely a paragraph in each chapter concerning a given topic. It is not conducive to a clear understanding of the Newfoundland fisheries dispute for example to be obliged to follow the diplomacy connected therewith through pages so scattered as the following, 1, 2, 43, 45, 48, 182, 183, 192, 193, 285, 346, 348, 352, 375,

376, 387, 432, 434, 435. Following the chronological treatment the author is forced to include decades barren of any important diplomatic history when the only captions he can find for his chapters are such as these: "Routine" "Baiting the Lion," and "Reciprocity, Claims, Boundaries and Slave Trade." Professor Fish has succeeded in giving a suprisingly complete enumeration of diplomatic events in American history, but the inclusion of many minor episodes prevents an adequate treatment of many of the more important affairs. It seems unfortunate that a volume in American diplomacy should be unable to devote more than a paragraph of twelve lines to such an important diplomatic events as the two Hague Conventions.

The author has made wide use of authoritative sources. In his chapter on "Pre-Revolutionary Boundaries" and elsewhere in the book Professor Fish has used material obtained from his researches in the Italian archives. Excellent judgment is shown in the selection of the best secondary sources as well as a breadth of knowledge of primary sources. The references are exceedingly well chosen, although here again the chronological treatment with accompanying references makes it more difficult to find all the authorities upon a given subject. The most important authority on the Newfoundland fisheries dispute is lacking—*Proceedings of the North Atlantic Coast Fisheries*; 61st Cong., 3d sess., S. Doc. 870, Vols. 1-xii. In connection with the account of the Hague Conferences no reference is made to the important work of J. B. Scott—*The Hague Peace Conferences*.

The book is unusually free from errors and those that exist are of slight importance. Monroe's principal instructions to the American peace commissioners were issued January 28 instead of January 14 (p. 182). The offer to the American government of direct negotiations was made by Castlereagh November 4, 1813, rather than July 13 (p. 179). In assigning the reason why the American commissioners at Ghent consented to the omission of any statement upon impressment in the treaty the author is hardly justified in implying that the instructions from the home government had changed because of the burning of Washington, the influence of the proposed Hartford Convention and the attack on New Orleans, all of these things having occurred after the concession was made by the American commissioners. In a note to the commissioners as early as June 27 Monroe had suggested the omission of impressment. The change of the American government was due mainly to the fact that the European conflict had at this time come to an end and the actual practice of impressment had ceased. The

typographical errors observed are few; "Shawanee" for Shawnee (p. 65) and "big" for brig (p. 228).

Professor Fish writes in a style distinguished by its strength and aptness of expression. He is very successful in stimulating the imagination by a mere historical illusion. His descriptions of men are clear-cut and illuminating.

The book brings American diplomacy down to very recent history. It contains chapters on the Mexican situation and on the European war. The author takes an optimistic view of the success of American diplomacy in general and attributes it not only to the directness of method and honesty of purpose, but also to the large degree of continuity of service that has prevailed in the department of state at Washington.

The intrinsic merit of the book and the present day interest in international affairs justify the hope of the author that his work will be supplemented by the intensive works to which reference has been made "and that it may serve to broaden the basis of public opinion upon which the usefulness and ultimate safety of the United States must depend."

F. A. UPDYKE.

Electoral Reform in England and Wales. The Development and Operation of the Parliamentary Franchise, 1832-1885. By CHARLES SEYMOUR, M.A., Ph.D. (New Haven: Yale University Press. 1915. Pp. xix, 564.)

The aim of Mr. Seymour's book is to depict how far England, in regard to its electoral franchises and its electoral system in general, traveled towards democracy between 1832 and 1885—how the house of commons, which was controlled by the aristocratic and wealthy classes until as late as 1867, was, as the result of the extensions of the franchise in 1832, 1867 and 1884, replaced in the last two decades of the nineteenth century by a house of commons in the election of which the occupying householder is easily and indisputably the dominating element. The undertaking entailed an enormous amount of work on Mr. Seymour's part—much more work than is at first obvious from a book the text of which does not extend to quite 550 pages. It was a task demanding much research in the Hansards, in the parliamentary papers from 1832 to 1906, in the records of those courts which have cognizance of registration cases, and also in political biography of the nineteenth century.